

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 59

April 2012

No. 4



Calendar

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Fri., Mar. 23 | Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> in Penn Place lobby | Fri., Apr. 13 | Film Society: <i>Green for Danger</i> , Town Hall; dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 5) |
| Tues., Mar. 27 | GPES Book Fair, 6–7 pm | Sun., Apr. 15 | Mythos Classical Piano Trio (Betsy White fundraiser), Town Hall, 3:30 pm (see p 2) |
| Wed., Mar. 28 | Citizens Assoc. Mtg.; Master Gardener talk; nominations for town elections | Thurs., Apr. 19 | Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm |
| Thurs., Mar. 29 | Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm | Fri., Apr. 20 | <i>Bugle</i> out in Penn Place lobby |
| Sat., Mar. 31 | Large item pickup; Register to vote in the town election, Town Office, 8 am–12 noon (see p 3) | Sat., Apr. 21 | GIVES collection at Farmer's Market, parking lot, 9 am–1 pm |
| Mon., Apr. 2 | New exhibit of art at Penn Place: works by Silver Spring painter Ellen Kalin | Sun., Apr. 22 | Efross memorial, Town Hall, 1 pm (see p 5); Weed Warrior Day, Yeandle property (see p 4). |
| Thurs., Apr. 5 | Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm | Wed., Apr. 25 | Citizens Assoc. meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm, Candidates' Forum |
| Sat., Apr. 7 | GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby, 9 am–1 pm; Voter registration, Town Office, 8 am–12 noon | Thurs., Apr. 26 | Happy Hour, Town Hall, 2–4 pm |
| Mon., Apr. 9 | Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm | Sat., Apr. 28 | Townwide Yard Sale, 9 am–1 pm (see p 2) |
| Tues., Apr. 10 | Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm | Sun., Apr. 29 | Archives presentation on <i>Bugles</i> past, Town Hall, 3 pm (see p 2) |
| | | Mon., May 7 | Town Council Elections, Penn Place lobby, 7 am–7:30 pm; Reception with the results, Town Hall, late evening |

Money, and How to Spend It

The Mayor's in Las Vegas, so Acting Mayor Jack Mandel ran things at the March Town Council meeting. The Council itself was sparse, with Beth Irons and Phil Schulp out sick.

George Martin addressed the Council on the subject of event parking at the new Garrett Park Elementary School, and the extent to which this may impinge on Holy Cross. Holy Cross proposes that the county lease from them an acre of ground that can be used for parking and access to GPES. (The land is directly behind the town hall.) It would involve removing no trees. He'd like Garrett Park's support on this.

Harry Gordon then spoke in support of the Kings' application for a variance (their house is 4714 Argyle) to add a second floor, slightly

expanding the house's footprint. The odd shape of the house (a parallelogram) makes it very difficult to avoid this small expansion. The variance was approved.

In his Mayor's Report, Jack said that we've sent a letter to Annapolis expressing our opposition to the bill barring noncitizen voting in local elections.

Chris Petito said that at their last meeting, POSCO discussed whether it wants to apply for a Project Open Spaces grant for the Cambria tennis court project. Because a grant of this sort might involve state control over some future issues in the park, the committee decided against it, though they will revisit the question. POSCO

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also discussed the town ball park adjacent to the swimming pool. They would like Garrett Park to limit its use to residents, or to start a scheduling system and charge a fee.

Ted Pratt then talked about the 2013 town budget. “We expect a decline in revenue—especially receipts from the county. We expect a significant drop in real property tax receipts. On the other hand, house sales at the moment seem to be going well in Garrett Park; values are holding and even increasing, with some people getting multiple bids on their houses.”

On the subject of how the town spends money, Chris Petito pointed out that interest rates for borrowing money are very low at the moment, so in terms of paying for town improvements and upkeep, we might consider whether we ought to do some borrowing. We might set a larger goal in terms of improvements we want to get done if we opt for financing rather than pay as you go.

A more extensive discussion ensued, revolving around the need for the next town council to think about freeing up funds for future capital programs. “We have a lot of infrastructure,” said someone (I’m a messy note-taker), “that we have to protect.”

The budget was approved.

The rest of the meeting was mainly about the latest iteration of the amended ordinance having to do with land use in town. Your reporter left the meeting before any action was taken on this important document.

Margaret Soltan

Remembrance of Bugles Past

On Sunday, April 29, at 3 pm in the Town Hall, participate in a panel discussion of discoveries made gleaning through old *Bugles*—both how the town has changed and how it hasn’t. Yes, we had a similar presentation last spring, which led to a lively discussion among panel and audience. But there is plenty more to cover, and some of the panel is new this time. So, especially if you missed last year’s (but even if you didn’t), come join the fun. (And there *may* be cookies!)

Caroline Turner

Women’s Club News

Officers elected for this year are as follows:

- President: Lillian Del Priore
- Vice president: Tara Smith
- Treasurer: Kathy Hedge
- Special Events Coordinator: Jean Horan
- Secretary: Caroline Turner

GP Townwide Community Yard Sale. All residents of Garrett Park (only) are invited to hold individual yard sales on their property for their own benefit on Saturday, April 28, from 9 am to 1 pm. (Rain date will be Sunday, April 29, 9 to 1.) Those with fewer items to sell may wish to combine with neighbors. No streets will be closed, and no sale should spill into the street.

Sponsored by the GP Women’s Club, an ad will be placed in *The Gazette*, the *Washington Post*, on Craig’s List, and various listservs, etc. Information will also be posted on the town Web site. Maps will be provided at the P.O. showing participating addresses and, if you wish, mention of a couple of special items that you wish to publicize.

If you want to be included, *please contact me asap* and no later than Friday, April 20. I am compiling a list *now*!

Signs will be posted on Strathmore and at the Farmers Market directing shoppers to the PO. We encourage you to make your own signs/flyers/posters and/or have a bunch of balloons in your front yard to help shoppers find you more easily. Feel free to sell lemonade or refreshments!

We hope to arrange for AMVETS or Goodwill to pick up what didn’t sell—more to follow on the listserv and PO notice board.

Betsy White Fundraiser

Come to the Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, April 15, at 4 pm to hear the Mythos Trio. These brilliant young players, trained at the Conservatory Santa Cecilia in Rome, Italy, will perform classical and romantic music for piano, violin, and cello (suggested donation \$10). Come join your neighbors, enjoy beautiful music, and support the Betsy White fund. Stay for a reception and meet the artists. Unwind after filing your taxes!

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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Todd Harris

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Citizens Association meeting. Please plan to attend the Citizens Association meeting in the Town Hall on Wednesday, March 28, at 8 pm, when nominations for the May 7 Town Election will be made. The Mayor and two seats on the Council are up for election this year. Important election dates are posted in the Post Office lobby and on the town’s Web site (www.garrettpark-md.gov).

Large item pickup. There will be a large item pickup on Saturday, March 31.

State tax form. This is really important. When filling out your state income tax forms, please remember to write *Garrett Park* in the box labeled “City, Town or Taxing Area.” This ensures our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues that the state distributes to Maryland counties, cities, and towns.

Voter registration—May elections. The last day for voter registration for the May 2012 town elections is Saturday, April 7. If you need a registration form, please pick one up at the Town Office during office hours (8 am–4 pm), the Montgomery County Board of Elections (www.montgomery-countymd.gov), or the Post Office. Noncitizen residents of Garrett Park who are not already on the town’s voters list and who wish to vote in the May election must also register by April 7 at the Town Office. The Town Office will be open from 8 am to noon on two Saturdays (March 31 and April 7) for those who are unable to come in during the week.

Absentee ballot—May elections. Absentee ballots must be applied for in writing on a form available in the Town Office or downloaded from the town Web site. Ballots will be delivered to the voter as directed on the form (in person, by mail, or by an agent) from April 18 through May 2 and must be received by the Town Office or the Judges of Election before the polls close at 7:30 pm on Town Election Day. After May 2, voters or their duly appointed agent must fill out the form and collect the ballot in person from the Town Office or, on Election Day, from the Judges of Election. Please check the town Web site or the Penn Place bulletin board for more information.

FY 2013 budget. The FY 2013 budget was introduced at the March Council meeting and proposes an operating budget of \$942,130 (7.7 percent more than the current budget), a capital program of \$57,250 (a decrease of 89.9 percent), with rev-

enues of \$999,987 (–8.2 percent) and transfers of \$1,396 (–99.6 percent) from available funds in the town’s treasury, for a total budget of \$1,001,380 (–30.4 percent). This budget maintains the tax rate at 21¢ per \$100 of valuation. Copies of the proposed FY 2013 budget are posted on the town Web site and available in the Post Office. If the Post Office copies run out, please come by the Town Office for a copy.

Yard waste collection. That annual harbinger of spring, weekly yard waste collection, has returned, as it does every March. Yard waste is now collected every Monday through the end of October. Use paper bags for yard waste—no plastic, please! Don’t forget to bundle brush.

Storm debris. If you haul branches too large to bundle for yard waste collection to the curb, butt-end facing the street, the maintenance staff will come by and chip them.

Bamboo cannot be chipped—it jams the chipper and sends out dangerous shards. Please cut it up into 4-foot lengths and bundle or bag it for regular yard waste collection on Mondays.

Walk smart/drive safely. As the weather improves, Garrett Park residents often stroll through the parks and streets to enjoy our beautiful surrounds. Walkers, please remember to be mindful of turning vehicles, wear light colors or reflective clothing to be more visible early and late, and everyone please obey traffic signs, signals, and street crossing markings. Drivers, please yield to pedestrians, observe the posted 20 mph speed limit, and—as usual—be courteous.

Permits. If you are planning to do any construction this spring, please remember that a Garrett Park building permit is required whenever a new structure is to be built, including houses, additions, sheds, garages, decks, porches, and driveways. This is in addition to the required Montgomery County permit. Please call the Town Office for a permit application, copies of the town’s building ordinance (Chapter 4 of the Town Code), and any other information.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator, garrett-park@comcast.net, 301-933-7488

Nonprofit Seeks Housing for International Students This Summer

Cultural Homestay International (CHI) has 20 international college students who will be working at businesses in Bethesda, Georgetown, and Rockville this summer. They are looking for homeowners with furnished rooms to rent that are convenient for the students’ work locations or near public transportation. Their budget is \$400–\$450/month. If you have a room that you can rent to one or two students, please contact

Francesca Contento, Work & Travel Coordinator
240-575-4898 or chifrancescaMidAtl@gmail.com

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Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?

Citizens Association News

At the March 28 meeting, join us for a conversation about gardening at the Town Hall. We will host Master Gardener Paula Jean Halberg to help us with some of the big GP gardening challenges; shade, deer, and more. Bring your questions and your expertise to share.

In addition, on March 28 the Citizens Association will accept nominations for the upcoming town elections on May 7. Three seats are up for election this year: the Mayor and two Town Council seats. Please consider running for one of these important positions. If interested, please have someone submit your nomination at this meeting.

On April 28, the Citizens Association will hold the annual Candidates Forum. Candidates for Mayor and the two Town Council seats up for election will be on hand to discuss their views on issues important to the citizens of Garrett Park.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2012 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Mario Grande (mfgrande@aol.com).

Revisit the '50s?

As you may have heard, the book and music for an original 1955 Garrett Players musical, *The Gypsy in Me*, have turned up in the town archives. Besides being an interesting piece of local history in itself, the work also provides amusing insights into local concerns of the time, since the story takes place in a thinly disguised version of Garrett Park ("Valley Heights"), complete with a post office where townspeople hobnob (and trains drown out conversations), multiple committees, a Woman's Club, and a brand-new swimming pool.

Following this discovery, a number of us have been considering how best to share this slice of town history. So far, we're considering presenting excerpts (readings and music), possibly combined with a '50s theme cocktail party. ("Mad Men," anyone?) More ideas and participants are always welcome! We now have electronic versions of the script and sheet music, so if you would like to see for yourself, contact me or Marian Green, and we can send you the files.

Barbara Collier

Arboretum Notes

Spring has arrived, and although we were fortunate to have had a mild winter, the longer days, along with our town's flowering bounty, are always a cause for celebration. The Arboretum Committee has a few exciting developments and announcements. Longtime Committee member Keith Mayhew will take the position of chairman for Michael Spekter. Michael will remain on the Committee, and we thank him for the last two years of service. The Committee also wants to welcome new member Jenny Krivanek. Jenny is a Master Gardener, and we are excited to have her on board.

Next, Phil Normandy has been busy combing the Mid-Atlantic region for our spring planting program. Though we are still in the planning and acquisition stages, we have some new and interesting spring-flowering trees contemplated for the north side of Kenilworth Avenue. Finally, we would like to announce our next committee-sponsored event, "Weed Warrior Day," which will be held on Earth Day, April 22. Typically we remove invasive species and weeds from Cambria Park and Porcupine Woods, but this year we will descend upon the Laetitia Yeandle property that was donated to the town. This property is located at the far north end of Kenilworth Avenue and will eventually be used as a nature/reserve park. This year the Parks and Open Spaces Committee and members of the Garrett Park Conservation Trust will pitch in as well. All town residents are invited to help with this project.



9am-9pm
Mon-Sat
9am-7pm
Sunday

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GP Film Society, April 13

The Garrett Park Film Society presents *Green for Danger* (1946, Rated G), a good old-fashioned thriller with a comic twist. When a nurse suggests that a patient's death on the operating table was really a murder and then she is found dead, Inspector Cockrill (Alistair Sim at his most bumbling) is called in to find out whodunit.

Every year the GPFS reaches back into the vaults of oldies but goodies to come up with a classic from the 30's and 40's. This year *Green for Danger* from England's Pinewood Studios is the selection. In addition to the inimitable Alastair Sim, you will find Trevor Howard in his prime as the prime suspect, a doctor whose actions arouse suspicion. But, as with any good mystery, nothing is what it appears to be.

The film will be shown at the Town Hall at 8 pm. Admission is free for GPFS members, and \$5 per person or \$10 per family for nonmembers. Dinner will be served at 7 pm and will feature appropriately British fare (think bangers and mash, for example). Cost is \$10 per person for entrée, \$5 for children under 12. Soda, bottled water, beer, and wine also will be on offer, at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5. Those who just want a snack (nuts or popcorn) pay \$1 or trade in a member coupon.

Join your neighbors and friends for this highly regarded (4 stars on IMDb) comedy/mystery on Friday, April 13.

Green Again

Two Garrett Park families have something to celebrate this month with a green banner. Henri and Chris Keller have a 45th wedding anniversary, and Ken and Glenda Ingham wanted to honor the 42nd birthday of their daughters Alison Ingham Blakely and Kristen Ingham Mullaney. Both are living in Hermosa Beach, California, and doing well. We thank the Kellers and Inghams very much. Some of the money from this month's largesse will go toward next month's banner. If you would care to sponsor a green banner after October, please make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98.

Mary Moyer

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Obituary

Abbie Kaplan Efross

Abbie Kaplan Efross, mother of Monnie and Mark Efross, passed away on February 14 in Pinole, California. Born May 31, 1927, Abbie was a long-time and beloved resident of Garrett Park. Abbie was a caring mother, political activist, avid reader and lover of the arts. Abbie lived life with a twinkle in her eye and an indomitable spirit. She succumbed to cancer on Valentine's Day, a day to celebrate someone with a big heart.

Memorial services will be held in the Garrett Park Town Hall, Sunday, April 22, at 1 pm. All are welcome, but please RSVP to her daughter Monnie. To honor Abbie, please send donations to the Smithsonian Institution.

GPES

A whole lot of dates to keep in mind are coming up. The Book Fair will be open to the local public on March 27, from 6 to 7 pm. The 2012 Science Fair will be held on Thursday, April 19, from 7 to 9 pm. Students return to school from Spring Break on Tuesday, April 10. And Kindergarten Orientation will be held April 26 and 27.

All students who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2012, are eligible to attend kindergarten. Please call the office (301-929-2170) to schedule an orientation slot. If you have a neighbor who is not currently a GPES parent and has a kindergarten-aged child, please ask him/her to call the school to register their child. Kindergarten attendance is mandatory. If you have a child who is eligible but do not wish your child to attend, an enrollment waiver form must be completed. These forms are available in the main office. On the days of Kindergarten Orientation, current kindergartners will not attend school so that the teachers and staff can interact with the new students.

Mary Moyer

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Letter from the Mayor

The US Census Bureau's Web site is one of those Internet destinations where one can get pleasantly diverted in an unexpected trove of interesting facts. The 2010 census figures for Garrett Park reveal, among many other statistics, that 27 percent of the town's population is 19 and under, and over one-fifth 14 and under. The well-being of the town's youngest residents is always one of our top municipal interests, most importantly their safety as they walk to and from school or bus stops. The town has recently installed new sidewalks, improved sight lines at corners, and taken other steps to enhance pedestrian safety throughout town. And since the considerably enlarged Garrett Park Elementary School reopened two months ago, the crosswalk at Oxford Street and Kenilworth Avenue has been of concern to school parents, and thus to the town. In an early March meeting with GPES principal Elaine Chang-Baxter and Montgomery County Public Schools representatives, MCPS proposed various changes to traffic controls at that intersection. The town has control over the parking and traffic measures that apply there, and we certainly want to facilitate the safest environment that we can. But the way we do so needs to be realistic and carefully thought out.

I committed to interim steps that the town could undertake to enhance safety at that crosswalk, but I felt that the major MCPS suggestions (including a three-way stop) were amorphous and did not take adequate account of the actual traffic and pedestrian conditions. As I explained, any significant changes in traffic or parking controls would need to occur through an ordinance considered and adopted by the Town Council. I suggested that MCPS present its suggestions in a written proposal, as I believe that the Council and the town would benefit from a specific proposal fully explaining how MCPS thinks its recommended changes will contribute to greater safety for schoolchildren and other pedestrians at the intersection. We will continue to work with parents, MCPS, and GPES to achieve a sensible, safe environment for pedestrians there and elsewhere.

With the approval of the Town Council, I was pleased to appoint the following residents

to town advisory committees: Jenny Krivanek to the Arboretum Committee, Kathryn Mitchell to the Archives Committee, and Stephen Paczkowski to the Historic Preservation Committee. The town appreciates the willingness of these residents to serve. Two vacancies remain on the Archives Committee. Although (as with all town committees) there are desired skills for members, the chief requisites are willingness to serve and the ability to contribute your time. The Archives Committee has been especially active; with the help of a recently hired professional archivist, the committee has made great progress in rationalizing the town's rich collection of interesting and historic materials. Notice the changing exhibits of photographs and other documents in the display case in the Post Office lobby; currently, it features materials on the establishment of the Garrett Park Community Swimming Pool in the 1950's—fascinating stuff, and only a sample of what the Archives offers.

Spring has sprung... early and vigorously. The blooms of Garrett Park are always a delight. Unfortunately, the season also typically brings an uptick in crime, especially thefts from cars and from unlocked homes and garages. Please take steps to deter crime. Lock your doors even if you are just working in your garden, as thieves can quickly duck in and out of your home. Look around your property: could overgrown shrubs provide concealment for burglars? Is a ladder left outside readily available to thieves? Call 911 for emergencies, and report suspicious activity to the MC Police nonemergency number (301-279-8000) or the Bethesda Substation (301-652-9200). It is especially important that you report incidents to the police, as they assign extra patrols based on patterns of reports *from residents*. Do not hesitate to call the police because the crime already happened or you are sheepish about having left a door unlocked or the like. Although a call to the Town Office or Mayor helps us know about occurrences in town, incidents *reported to the police* are what influence assignment of added patrols.

Now that we've put our minds at ease, go out and enjoy our glorious Garrett Park spring!

Chris Keller

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